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HEADQUARTERS  
U. S. ARMY, EUROPE  
Office of the Chief of Staff  
APO 403, New York, N. Y.

AEAGC-AV 280/144 GC

7 August 1958

SUBJECT: Flight of H-19 Into East Germany (U)

TO: Deputy Chief of Staff for Military  
Operations  
Department of the Army  
Washington 25, D. C.

1. (UNCLASSIFIED) Reference DCSOPS message DA-358354.

2. (UNCLASSIFIED) The formal investigation of the flight of H-19, Number 56-4250, into East Germany on 7 June 1958 indicated the cause to be failure of the pilot to plan and conduct his flight in such a manner as to insure its successful conclusion. Specifically, the pilot:

a. Attempted to navigate solely by ADF and memory when ceiling and visibility were correctly forecast to approach minimum for VFR flight.

b. Did not have aboard the aircraft TM 11-2557-4 which is required for radio navigation.

c. Did not indicate to the copilot any duties which he should perform, nor have the copilot follow the flight path on a map or aeronautical chart.

d. Made no time-distance calculations nor attempt to locate himself, other than by ADF, until sometime after flying beyond the coverage of maps in the aircraft.

✓ 3. (CONFIDENTIAL) There is a possibility that an unknown radio beacon in East Germany, using the same identifiers (GF) and within 1-3 kilocycles of the Grafenwohr beacon, lured the pilot off course. Existence

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of this beacon has not been definitely confirmed although there is evidence that such a beacon has been on the air. Use of maps or bearings on other beacons would thwart decoy beacons.

4. (UNCLASSIFIED) The pilot and copilot have been placed before a Flying Evaluation Board. Additional training is being given the copilot. Action is being taken to correct deficiencies indicated by the investigation.

5. (UNCLASSIFIED) Regrading data cannot be predetermined.

*For Mr. Willem*  
JOHN M. WILLEMS  
Major General GS  
Chief of Staff

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